

VZCZCXRO0693  
RR RUEHLN RUEHVK RUEHYG  
DE RUEHKB #1479 3470815  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 130815Z DEC 07  
FM AMEMBASSY BAKU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4433  
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RHMFIUU/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RHMFIUU/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE

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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
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DEPT FOR EEB/CBA MERMOUD  
ANKARA FOR FCS  
COMMERCE FOR 4231 ITA/MAC/ORUE FOR DSTARKS  
COMMERCE FOR 3004 ITA/FCS/ ADVOCACY FOR ACHAMS-EDDINE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [ECON](#) [EINV](#) [ETRD](#) [EFIN](#) [AJ](#)  
SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS LOOKING TO BUY  
U.S. EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED -- NOT FOR INTERNET DISTRIBUTION  
-- PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY

¶1. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 4.

¶2. (SBU) In a December 12 meeting, Minister of Emergency Situations (MES) First Deputy Rafail Mirzayev said that the MES is extremely interested in sending a delegation, led by a deputy minister and including agency heads and experts, to the U.S. to visit U.S. federal emergency agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security, and meet with state emergency authorities from Texas, Florida or California. The primary goal of the visit, according to Mirzayev, is to see firsthand which equipment emergency agencies in the U.S. are using and then look to purchase from U.S. companies the same equipment. MES officials have done the same with other trips to other countries, including France. From France, the MES has purchased more than 50 emergency vehicles in a deal worth millions of dollars.

¶3. (SBU) Following the trip to the U.S., the MES would propose that U.S. experts and companies visit Azerbaijan. The Ministry of Emergency Situations also has a paramilitary character. We have been clear that we are not/not encouraging them at this stage to seek military equipment on such a visit, but merely rescue and relief equipment.

¶4. (SBU) ACTION REQUEST: Embassy requests that Washington agencies, including Department of State, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Commerce, in conjunction with state authorities from Texas or California, support the idea of an MES trip to the U.S. Embassy believes that U.S.-Azerbaijan bilateral relations, as well as U.S. commercial interest in this booming, energy-rich economy, would be served by such a trip.  
DERSE